



Mountain Sky Conference The United Methodist Church

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Jessica Rooks
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Metro Mile High District

Jan Witman
District Superintendent
Montana West District

**Mountain Sky Conference of
The United Methodist Church**
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Dear Sisters and Brothers, Siblings of Bozeman United Methodist Church,

I am writing to share with you that Bishop Karen Oliveto intends to appoint Rev. Zach Bechtold to Bozeman United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2022. Zach is currently serving as Congregational Resource Minister in the Wyoming District as well as Grace United Methodist Church in Cheyenne. Previous to that, he was pastor at Choteau, Brady, and Dutton United Methodist Churches in Montana. I have come to know and appreciate Zach's enthusiasm and creativity, and his unique combination of people skills and tech skills. He is both personable and visionary, and I am excited for him and for you as a congregation as you build on the work that Rev. Amy Strader and Rev. Eric Strader have done and the leadership they have provided. I am grateful for the gifts and graces that Zach will share with you in ministry as you move into a new chapter in your life together.

I pray God's blessing on your congregation and on Zach in this time of transition. I know you will welcome Zach and his wife Mikel, and their children Zoe, Noah, and Ryann with your genuine hospitality.

As with any changes in pastoral leadership, there will be some challenges and some changes. I know that your commitment to the church is strong, and I trust that you will find new ways to be the Beloved Community together.

May God's Spirit enliven and guide your ministry in Bozeman and beyond.

Blessings,

Jan Witman
Montana West District Superintendent

Cc: Bishop Karen Oliveto, Natalie Marionneaux, Colleen Wakeley, Zach Bechtold, Evelyn Warren, Jana Collins